

*Description of Sigerpes occidentalis, the Type of a new Genus of Mantodea from West Africa.* By J. WOOD-MASON.

In this short paper a new species of *Mantodea* closely related to the East-African *Sibylla tridens*, Saussure, is described and made the type of a new genus, *Sigerpes*, which must be placed in the sub-family Harpagidæ next to the genera *Oxyphilus* and *Hestias*.

The cephalic horn, as was suspected by the author (P. A. S. B. 1876), turns out to be rudimentary in the males.

The new species, described from a fine dried female specimen in the British Museum from the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, differs from *Sigerpes* (olim *Sibylla*) *tridens* ♀ in having the cephalic horn somewhat longer and without lateral lobes and teeth, the base of the wings greenish yellow, the fore tibiæ more numerously toothed, the fore femora on the inside red tipped with black, and the extremities of the organs of flight not so obviously truncate.—*Proc. As. Soc. Beng.* November 1879.

*The Cæciliæ.* By Prof. W. PETERS.

Professor Peters has published an important paper on this curious group of Amphibians, in which, after discussing certain critical points, he gives a new division of the known forms into genera, and describes several new species. He finds that his *Gymnopsis multiplicata* (Monatsber. Berl. Akad. 1874) is generically identical with Duméril's *Rhinatrema unicolor*, and that the characters given by the latter author for his genus *Rhinatrema* are erroneous as applied to this species; while the *Cæcilia bivittata* of Cuvier, which was referred by Duméril to the genus *Rhinatrema*, is founded upon immature examples of the Linnean *Cæcilia glutinosa*. Accordingly he sinks the genus *Rhinatrema* altogether, and retains his own name *Gymnopsis* for the genus including his and Duméril's species.

For the division of the Cæciliæ into genera he considers that the position of the tentacular pore alone leads to very unsatisfactory and unnatural results, as, independent of the structure of the skull and viscera, the structure or absence of the dermal scales, the dentition, especially of the lower jaw, and the differences in the form of the tentacle, seem to him to be of much greater importance. The tentacle occurs under three different forms, namely:—dagger-shaped (*cultratum*), which occurs in *Ichthyophis* (*Epicrion*), lies freely in the sheath and can be pushed out like the point of a trocar; valve-like (*valvatum*), placed at the orifice of the sheath and united to its hinder margin, so that it moves round upon this fixed basal part like a flap upon its hinge, although when protruded it appears somewhat spindle-shaped, as in *Cæcilia tentaculata*; and globular (*globosum*), which occurs in *Gymnopsis*, and in which the thin basal part is situated in the bottom of the sheath. An intermediate form occurs in *Cæcilia* (*Herpele*) *squalostoma*; it appears globular externally, but is attached by its extremity to the wall of